

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 310234  
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 /016 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IRN:CWNAAS:KMS  
APPROVED BY NEA/IRN:CWNAAS  
HA - MR. JONES (INFO)

-----042616 302026Z /47

R 301831Z DEC 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS STATE 310234

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, IR

SUBJECT: DR. SA'EDI

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN DEC. 30 WASHINGTON POST, QUOTE, A GROUP OF U.S. PUBLISHERS HAS APPEALED TO PRESIDENT CARTER AND U.S. BUSINESS LEADERS TO INTERCEDE WITH THE SHAH OF IRAN AND HIS WIFE ON BEHALF OF AN IRANIAN WRITER DENIED A PASSPORT. THE PUBLISHERS HAVE SOUGHT FOR MONTHS TO INVITE GHOLAMHOSSEIN SA'EDI TO VISIT THE U.S. TO DISCUSS PUBLICATION OF HIS WORK IN ENGLISH AND MEET WITH OTHER WRITERS AND ACADEMICS. SA'EDI RECEIVED ONLY ONE OF THE FIVE LETTERS OF INVITATION, ACCORDING TO WINTHROP KNOWLTON, PRESIDENT OF HARPER & ROW, AND WAS INSTRUCTED BY IRANIAN OFFICIALS TO DECLINE THE INVITATION. HE WAS TOLD HE WOULD NOT BE GRANTED A PASSPORT, KNOWLTON SAID. ON NOV. 23, HOWEVER, KNOWLTON SPOKE WITH SA'EDI AND ALTHOUGH THE IRANIAN WRITER MADE CLEAR THAT HE WAS TAKING A RISK BY DISCUSSING HIS SITUATION ON THE TELEPHONE, HE SAID HE WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES. SA'EDI  
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WAS IMPRISONED FOR 9 MONTHS AND BEFORE HIS RELEASE IN 1975 HE WAS TORTURED AND FORCED TO MAKE A VIDEOTAPE DENOUNCING HIS WRITINGS AND PRAISING THE SHAH, ACCORDING

TO KNOWLTON AND IRANIAN EXILES HERE. IN HIS FORCED STATEMENT, ACCORDING TO THE EXILES, SA'EDI "FORBADE THE PEOPLE TO READ THOSE WORKS OF MINE WHICH BRING OUT

THE NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF THE IRANIAN SOCIETY." HE  
ALSO SAID "THANKS TO THE WISE LEADERSHIP OF THE SHAH  
OF SHAHS, IRAN HAS ACHIEVED COMPREHENSIVE PROGRESS,  
WHICH HAS HAD GREAT REFLECTIONS ON THE INTERNATIONAL  
SCENE." THE OTHER SIGNERS OF THE LETTER ON BEHALF  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL FREEDOM TO PUBLISH COMMITTEE WERE  
ROBERT BERNSTEIN, PRESIDENT OF RANDOM HOUSE; KENNETH  
MCCORMICK, SENIOR EDITOR AT DOUBLDDAY, AND LAWRENCE  
HUGHES, PRESIDENT OF WILLIAM MORROW. END QUOTE.  
CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** SHUM, IR, US, (SAEDI, GHOLAMHOSSEIN)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009